

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Fortifications in the Wonsan Area

CONFIDENTIAL

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1. On the celebration of Lenin Day, 21 January 1950, the authorities in Wonsan made emphatic statements concerning the necessity for Soviet military aid to reconstruct Wonsan harbor, to promote both the economic and military welfare of the North Korean population, and to overthrow the reactionary South Korean government. Part of the Soviet aid, although this factor was not officially discussed, appears to be the construction of fortifications by the Soviet Navy around the Wonsan airfield.*
2. Fortification works appear to center around the northwestern end of the airfield at Myongsasip-ni (明沙十里). Islands in this area, which were formerly often visited by small tourist craft and transports for firewood, were closely restricted [redacted] and are guarded by the North Korean navy. The Hodo Pando (127-32, 39-20) (peninsula), which is connected by land with Myongsasip-ni, has received a new installation of high-voltage electric power-lines, and both the peninsula and the surrounding water are brilliantly lighted at night. Metal and cement, as well as other supplies for construction work, are being brought into the area, and new large cranes have appeared in Wonsan city. 50X1-HUM
3. The fortification work, which appears to be intended for the entire harbor, is not known in detail. It is reported locally to be under Soviet supervision and to be conducted with Soviet aid. Although there were formerly only a few Soviets in Wonsan, the number frequenting Moltorans, a Soviet store in Wonsan, increased greatly [redacted]. The store restaurant, which was formerly open to Korean residents of Wonsan, is now monopolized by the Soviets. A further local rumor indicates that the Soviets may be planning to use Chinese labor for the fortification works. 50X1-HUM

Comment: Wonsan airfield has been [redacted] equipped with reinforced concrete buildings and underground installations. 50X1-HUM

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